

CHARLOTTE REICKS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor an outstanding woman who has gone far out of her way to help others. Charlotte Reicks of Grand Junction, Colorado has ridden her bicycle all over the country to raise money and awareness for a number of charitable causes.

Charlotte began her adventures in 1997 with a 400-mile ride around Colorado for the Make-a-Wish Foundation. On another occasion, this intrepid grandmother pedaled 700 miles in 10 days and helped raise \$7,000 for Habitat for Humanity. During the spring and summer of 1999, she rode from California to Maine, down the coast to Florida, and back across the country again. The 8,800 mile journey lasted six months and benefited the American Bible Society and the Lutheran Hour Ministries. So far, she has ridden about 14,000 miles for various organizations and has no plans to stop any time soon. This summer she is slated to ride across Texas to raise money and awareness for Huntington's disease.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Charlotte for her outstanding service to humanity. Her courage, tenacity, and dedication to various worthwhile causes certainly deserve the praise of this body and this nation. She is an extraordinary woman who has truly gone to great lengths to help others.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NINA
SIMONE**HON. MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor a jazz artist who was truly inspiration both on stage and off.

Nina Simone was a consummate artist who defied classification. A jazz singer, a pianist, a jazz-rock-pop-folk-black musician, an arranger, a composer and a protest singer—she was all of these and more.

She was a social activist, unafraid to speak out or sing out against the social ills of racism and war.

One of eight children, Nina Simone was born Eunice Kathleen Waymon on February 21, 1933 in Tryon, North Carolina. Early on, she demonstrated prodigious talent as a pianist and singer. She played and sang with her sisters in their mother's choir in the local church. It was not until the age of six that Eunice began formal training on the piano.

By the time she was 10, she had given her first recital in her hometown. This recital at the town library produced her first applause and her first encounter with racism. Her parents were forced to move from the first row to make room for whites to be seated. This incident formed the basis of her commitment to the fight for civil rights.

Eunice left North Carolina in 1950 to continue her musical education at the Juilliard School of Music in New York, after which, her family moved to Philadelphia. She applied for

a scholarship at the prestigious Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, but was rejected. Her talent was cited as the reason for the rejection, but the Juilliard graduate believed it had more to do with her color than her musical skill.

Discouraged, she became an accompanist for a singing teacher and then, in 1954, she went to work as a singer-pianist in an Atlantic City, New Jersey bar. It was there she adopted the name Nina Simone: Nina, her boyfriend's pet name for her; and Simone, after French actress Simone Signoret, for its dignified sound. Three years later, in 1957, she had her first recording contract.

In 1958, her first album produced her first hit, George Gershwin's "I Love You Porgy," a song that made her an international star and has been synonymous with the name Nina Simone ever since. Her star continued to shine through the '60s and '70s, as did her commitment to the civil rights struggle.

She performed in concert at the world's most prestigious houses of music, with a repertoire ranging from jazz, gospel, blues, folk and classical music to songs of protest against the injustice of racism.

She became a strong voice in the civil rights movement with her song "Mississippi Goddam," which she wrote and performed in protest of the murders of Medgar Evers in Mississippi and four black schoolchildren in Alabama. Later, she wrote and performed the inspirational "To Be Young, Gifted and Black."

Like many American jazz artists before her, Nina Simone found a greater appreciation for her music and more freedom abroad than at home. Embittered by racism, she renounced the United States in 1969 and became a "Citizen of the world." She left the United States in 1973 and lived in Liberia, Barbados, Switzerland, Africa, Trinidad, the Netherlands, Belgium and the United Kingdom before finally settling in France. In 1978, Nina Simone was arrested abroad for failing to pay taxes from 1971 to 1973 in protest of the war in Vietnam, but she was quickly released.

Nina Simone remained a top recording artist and concert draw throughout her life and performed at Carnegie Hall just two years ago in 2001. Nina Simone will always be remembered for her talent and her passion, her sultry, yet forceful voice, her incomparable style and a regal presence on stage.

Nina Simone, whose inimitable voice helped define the civil rights movement, died April 21, 2003 at her home in France at the age of 70. She is survived by her daughter, Lisa Celeste Stroud.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA MURPHY
AND THE EIGHTH GRADE GIFTED
STUDENTS OF STONE MIDDLE
SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of 8th Grade students in my Congressional District who have been in Ms. Barbara Murphy's gifted class at Stone Middle School in Huntsville, Alabama since the 6th Grade. These outstanding girls and boys have written a book they aptly named "Reality Street".

The students have compiled their thoughts on various subjects that include their school, neighborhoods, families, conflicts and challenges. Stone Middle school is a Title I school, and these students hope to show people through their book that truly no child will be left behind in any community across the United States. The stories these students tell are powerful and eye opening and are an excellent insight into their community. Everyone can find inspiration in this book, including author Homer Hickam who wrote the Foreword and John L. Stallworth who contributed the Introduction.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you an excerpt from a poem written by one of the students:

"My memories run deep like the sea,
From some of them I want to flee.
But deep in my heart, I truly know
That in the end they all help me to grow."

These kinds of children, ones who decide to grow and learn from every level of their experiences, form the future leaders of our great country. These young folks are to be commended. On behalf of the people of North Alabama and the U.S. House of Representatives, I send them each my best wishes and hopes for a very bright future.

INDEFINITE DETENTION OF
ASYLUM SEEKERS**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, many things have changed since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on our country.

But one thing that has not changed is the importance of respecting the Constitution and its limits on the powers of the national government.

That is the point of a recent editorial in the Rocky Mountain News concerning the Attorney General's assertion of authority to indefinitely detain people seeking asylum in America, regardless of the rulings of the courts.

I am also troubled by the Attorney General's actions, and I share the editorial's view that "The government has every right to deport illegal immigrants, but if it's going to detain them for any lengthy period, it has to accord them certain rights."

For the benefit of our colleagues, here is the full text of the editorial:

[From the Rocky Mountain News, April 29, 2003]

U.S. CAN'T JUST THROW AWAY THE KEY

Attorney General John Ashcroft has given himself the power to lock up indefinitely, without hearings, whole classes of illegal immigrants even if he does not deem them individually to be a threat to national security.

The decisions about which illegal aliens should be locked up properly belong to the immigration courts, and certainly should not be made on a wholesale basis.

In asserting this new power, Ashcroft overrode an appeals panel of immigration judges that had upheld a lower court decision granting bond to an 18-year-old Haitian who entered the country illegally last fall. Ashcroft said he wasn't trying to block the right to seek asylum, only to deter "unlawful and dangerous mass migrations by sea." While the intent may be laudable, it's a